

## Letter from Elisha Gray to Alexander Graham Bell, February 21, 1877

February 21, 1877 Prof. A. G. Bell My dear Sir:

I give a lecture in McCormick Hall this city Tuesday evening the 27 inst on the telephone as I have developed it. I also connect with Milwaukee and have times and telegraphing done from there. I should like to explain and exhibit your method of transmitting vocal sounds as well, but do not feel at liberty to do more without permission from you. I should explain it as your method and not mine, although the office records show a description of the talking telegraph filed by me the same day yours was filed. The description is substantially the same as yours, I was unfortunate in being an hour or two behind you. There is no evidence that either knew that the other was working in this direction.

With our facilities I can get up an apparatus on a day's notice that will answer. I have a copy of your last patent.

Please telegraph at my expense an receipt of this yes or no and I will act accordingly.

Yours truly, Elisha Gray I send this care Mr. Hayes as I do not know your address. I received a line from you through Mr. Baldwin for which please accept thanks.